

SENATE BILL 334

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2003 Regular Session
(3r1510)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Finance and Budget and Taxation/Health and Government Operations --

Introduced by **Senators Teitelbaum, Astle, Dyson, Exum, Hafer, Hollinger,
Kelley, Klausmeier, McFadden, and Pinsky**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **~~Maryland Health Care Foundation~~ - Maryland Medbank Program -**
3 **Administration, Extension, and Funding**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the termination date of the Maryland Medbank
5 Program ~~administered by the Maryland Health Care Foundation; requiring the~~
6 ~~Maryland Medbank Program to be administered by the Department of Health~~
7 ~~and Mental Hygiene Medbank of Maryland, Inc.; requiring the Department to~~
8 ~~contract with certain entities to operate the Program; requiring the Department~~
9 ~~to ensure that the Program is available to residents in certain geographic~~
10 ~~regions of the State; requiring the Department to use certain regional offices;~~
11 ~~requiring the Department to require certain financial reports from entities that~~
12 ~~operate the Program; requiring the Department to release funds to certain~~
13 ~~entities; requiring the Department to report certain information to the Governor~~
14 ~~and General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; requiring Medbank~~
15 ~~of Maryland, Inc. to contract with certain entities to operate the Program;~~
16 providing that the Program shall be funded entirely by the Department of Health

1 and Mental Hygiene; requiring Medbank of Maryland, Inc. to ensure that the
 2 Program is available to residents in certain geographic regions of the State;
 3 repealing certain provisions relating to the use of certain regional offices and
 4 providing that Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall be the central coordinating
 5 office for the State; requiring the Department to require certain financial reports
 6 from Medbank of Maryland, Inc.; requiring Medbank of Maryland, Inc. to release
 7 funds to certain entities; requiring the Department and Medbank of Maryland,
 8 Inc. to report certain information to the Governor and General Assembly on or
 9 before a certain date each year; authorizing Maryland Medbank Program funds
 10 to be used to distribute medication to enrollees under certain circumstances;
 11 requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill a certain
 12 appropriation ~~Department to request funding~~ for a certain purpose; providing
 13 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Maryland Medbank
 14 Program ~~administered by the Maryland Health Care Foundation.~~

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 16 Article - Health - General
 17 Section 15-124.2
 18 Annotated Code of Maryland
 19 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 21 Chapter 134 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001, as amended by
 22 Chapter 153 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002
 23 Section 12

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 25 Chapter 135 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001, as amended by
 26 Chapter 153 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002
 27 Section 12

28 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 29 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

30 **Article - Health - General**

31 15-124.2.

32 (a) ~~(1)~~ In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

33 ~~(2)~~ "Foundation" means the Maryland Health Care Foundation
 34 established under § 20-502 of this article.

35 ~~(3)~~ SECTION. "Program" means the Maryland Medbank Program
 36 established under this section.

37 (b) There is a Maryland Medbank Program.

1 (c) The purpose of the Program is to improve the health status of individuals
 2 throughout the State who lack prescription drug coverage by providing access to
 3 medically necessary prescription drugs through patient assistance programs
 4 sponsored by pharmaceutical drug manufacturers.

5 (d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Program shall be
 6 administered by the ~~Foundation~~ DEPARTMENT MEDBANK OF MARYLAND, INC.

7 (2) The ~~Foundation~~ DEPARTMENT MEDBANK OF MARYLAND, INC. shall
 8 contract with one or more government or nonprofit entities to operate the Program.

9 (e) (1) The ~~administration and operation of the~~ Program shall be funded
 10 through a grant provided by the Department.

11 (2) Program funds may be used in part to:

12 (I) [purchase] PURCHASE interim supplies of prescription drugs
 13 for enrollees who have applied to participate in a manufacturer's patient assistance
 14 program but have not yet received the approved prescription drug; AND

15 (II) DISTRIBUTE MEDICATION TO ENROLLEES WHO HAVE BEEN
 16 APPROVED TO PARTICIPATE IN A MANUFACTURER'S PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

17 (f) (1) The ~~Foundation~~ DEPARTMENT MEDBANK OF MARYLAND, INC. shall
 18 ensure that the Program is available to residents in each of the following geographic
 19 regions of the State:

20 (i) Western Maryland;

21 (ii) The Eastern Shore;

22 (iii) The Baltimore metropolitan area;

23 (iv) The Maryland counties in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan
 24 area; and

25 (v) Southern Maryland, including Anne Arundel County.

26 (2) ~~The Foundation~~ DEPARTMENT shall use Medbank of Maryland, Inc.
 27 ~~and the Western Maryland Prescription Program as the regional offices for the~~
 28 ~~Baltimore metropolitan area and Western Maryland, respectively.~~ SHALL BE THE
 29 CENTRAL COORDINATING OFFICE FOR THE STATE.

30 (g) Eligibility for the Program shall be limited only by the criteria established
 31 by pharmaceutical manufacturers for their patient assistance programs.

32 (h) (1) The ~~Foundation~~ DEPARTMENT shall require detailed financial
 33 reports at least quarterly from ~~the entities that operate the Program~~ MEDBANK OF
 34 MARYLAND, INC.

- 1 the end of June 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
- 2 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.